VIZ GRAPHIC NOVEL

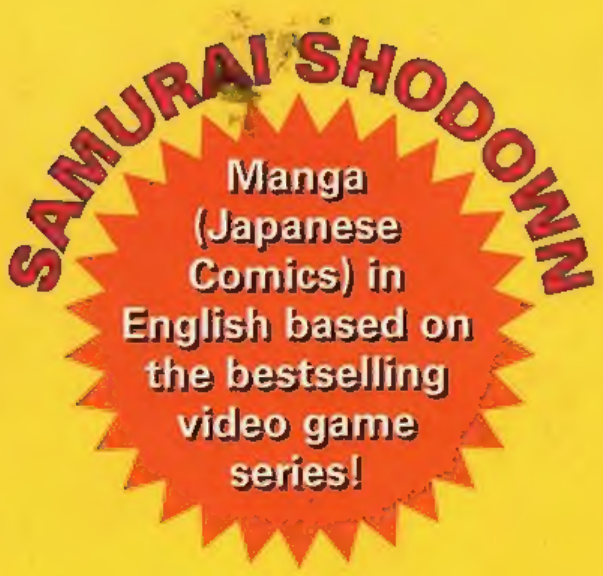
SAMURAI SHODOWN

STORY BY KYOICHI NANATSUKI

ART BY YUKI MIYOSHI

Viz Graphic Novel

$15.95 USA/$21.50 CAN



The year is 1787, the Tenmei Era, a time of plague and famine in Japan, when ordinary swordsmen only add to the piles of corpses in the streets. But Nakoruru, a nature-worshipping Ainu priestess; Haohmaru, a bold samurai with a death wish; and Hanzo, a ninja loyal to the Shogun, are *samurai spirits* with a common destiny!

With Nakoruru's guidance, the trio battle the supernatural forces of the Dark Kingdom, led by the half-human wizard Madou Shiranui. If Shiranui's troops succeed in fomenting a war between Japan's warlords, the resulting devastation will clear the way for the Dark Kingdom's invasion of Earth. Can three brave samurai stave off an all-out attack by an entire legion of demons?

9 781569 312131

7 82009 02793 5

CONTENTS

BATTLE ONE
Encounter
5

BATTLE TWO
War Clouds
37

BATTLE THREE
Hellfire
75

BATTLE FOUR
Ogre's Howl
107

BATTLE FIVE
Netherworld
139

BATTLE SIX
Reincarnation
171

BATTLE ONE
ENCOUNTER

Summer, the seventh year of the Tenmei Era (1787). The road called Ohshu Highway extends from the North down to Edo, as far as the eye can see.
THE WIND -- FULL OF THE DARK SPIRIT -- BLOWS FROM THE SOUTH-EAST...
...WITH DEATH ON ITS WINGS! EVERYTHING IS DYING... FORESTS... FLOWERS... BIRDS... BEASTS... AND PEOPLE...

BATTLE ONE
ENCOUNTER

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE RIOT IN EDO?
HYUUUU
SO MANY ARE STARVING IN THE NORTH THAT THEY'RE EATING THEIR OWN CHILDREN!
ROGUES AND GANGS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE NOWADAYS-- EVEN HERE!
IF WE DIDN'T HAVE A TINY SHARE IN THE GAMBLING HOUSE, WE'D NEVER SURVIVE.
FIVE YEARS OF FAMINE... I--I DON'T EVEN WANT TO LIVE ANY MORE...

*One KANMON equals about 17 gold coins

LAND ONE BLOW AND WIN 10 KANMON
LAND TWO BLOWS AND WIN 20 KANMON
CHOP OFF MY HEAD AND WIN 100 KANMON
FELLER WANTS TO TEST HIS SKILL WITH A SWORD...
CHECK IT OUT! HACK OFF HIS HEAD AND WE GET THE WHOLE 100 KANMON!
TONG
BUT...
I KNOW!
SKOOM
IT DOESN'T SAY IT HAS TO BE ONE PERSON AT A TIME! HI-HO!
OR THAT WE GOTTA WAKE 'M UP!
KAAAW!
TSH

FOOSH
SPLOO
GAH!
FUMP
UNGH!

TONK
UHNN. . . WHAT WAS THAT-- A TORNADO?
KREK
SAVAGES! CAN'T EVEN LET A MAN REST IN PEACE. . .
KANG
AIEE!!
RWUMP
HE'S A MON-STER!
YIKES!
SHAAA
WAS I TOO NOSY? YOU'D HAVE WON WITHOUT A WAKE-UP CALL. . .
TRUE! THOSE TWO WERE SO LOUD I SPOTTED THEM FROM 100 YARDS AWAY. . .
IF YOU KNOW ANY, SEND 'EM MY WAY!
MY NAME'S HAOHMARU! I'M LOOKING FOR STRONG, BRAVE CHALLENGERS!
HEH!
AH-- IT WAS YOUR HAWK! THANKS. . . I MIGHT HAVE OVER-SLEPT!
FUMP
. . .
HEY!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
H-HUNGRY.. HAVEN'T EATEN IN THREE DAYS.
?
HEY.. GET UP!
...
CHOMP
CHUG
GULP
GLOMP
SKRMP
CHOMP

DON'T YOU HAVE 100 KANMON IN YOUR POCKET? YOU COULDVE EATEN ALL YOU WANTED!
TICH
JUST A BLUFF I'M PENNILESS.
WAIT A MINUTE! THEN WH-WHO'S GOING TO PAY FOR THIS?!
FWAM
PLEASE TREAT ME THIS TIME!
KLOK
I'LL PAY YOU BACK WITH MY BODY, OKAY?
OH!
...

YOU SURE ABOUT PAYING ME BACK WITH YOUR BODY?
Y-YEAH.
IF YOU SAY SO HOLD ON A SEC
SHUP
H-HEY, I DIDN'T M-MEAN THAT, BUT
UM...
TA-TOM
AH?
WHAT DID YOU MEAN? HMMM...?
NOT EXPECTING BATTLE GEAR, WERE YOU?!

YOUR OUTFIT IT'S FROM THE FAR NORTH, BEYOND OHSHU.
SHASH
MY NAME IS NAKORURU-- WARRIOR OF KAMUI-KOTAN!
MR HAOHMARU, I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE!
HYAH
HA HA HA HA
WHY TRY TO DEFEAT ME? I TOLD YOU -- I'M BROKE!
HA HA

...
HA..
!?
No HE-MAN, but she's STRONG!
ZUZFAH
WELL, WELL.

She's seen my sword style once before. . . I gotta be careful!
His tornado-like form is dangerous! How should I counter it?
YA
WOOM
CYCLONE SLASH!

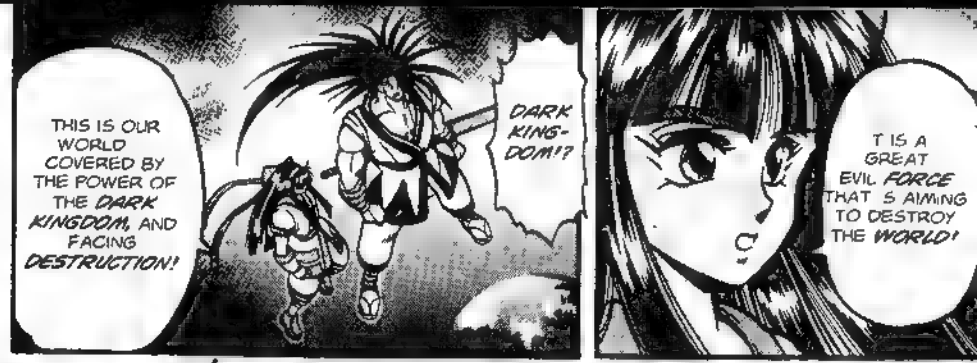
VO VO VO VO
FSH
SH
SH
SH
WHOA!
FYE-E
YASH
YATORO POKU!
KANG
GYAH!
WOW!

FWA
SSH
RASH
CRESCENT MOON SLASH!
ANNU MUTSUBE!
FA
SHASH
SWIK

YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD
SSSS
WHEW!
SO ARE YOU!..
BUT THERE WAS NO MENACE IN YOUR SWORD--
TMP TMP TMP
..SO WHY DID YOU OFFER A MATCH?
I NEEDED TO TEST YOUR ABILITIES. THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO SEE.
SIT DOWN RIGHT THERE
HUH?
LOOK ME IN THE EYE!
GOM
OW! THAT SMARTS!

PLEASE! BE PATIENT, WILL YOU?
His spirit is fierce-- like a FLAME... but so pure!
SLASH
A SAMURAI SPIRIT! I'm sure of it!
KA-POW
WOW!!
SHA BOOSH

SHAA
WH-WHERE ARE WE!?


THIS IS OUR WORLD COVERED BY THE POWER OF THE DARK KINGDOM, AND FACING DESTRUCTION!
DARK KING-DOM!?
IT IS A GREAT EVIL FORCE THAT S AIMING TO DESTROY THE WORLD!

THERE! THERE LIES THE CENTER OF ITS DARK POWER!
RMBRMBRMB
BUT THAT'S, EDO! OUR CAPITAL!
WE MUST CUT THE HEART OUT OF THE DARK KINGDOM.
THAT IS WHY I'VE COME FROM KAMUI KOTAN.
PLEASE HAOHMARU! I'M A PRIESTESS AND I NEED YOU...
!?
SHAA

WHO ARE YOU? YOU, WHO STARE AT ME.
!
zazohhh

JUST SILLY LITTLE HUMANS!

NO! HE'S GOING TO GET US!
WHAT!?

AIEE!
SHAAWOOP
DIE!

SKA-
SKASSH
RROOOWWRR!!
TING

PHEW!
HEY- YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M CERTAIN MY SWORD STRUCK SOME-THING... BUT.
I-I'M SORRY...
WH WHEN I USE THIS SPELL, I DRAIN ALL MY POWER...
HEY, HEY, HEY! IT'S YOU!
TMP
YO, VAGABOND! WE'D LOSE FACE IF WE STAYED BEATEN BY THE LIKES OF YOU!!
CHA
CHIK
NOW WE GET A CHANCE TO FIGHT FAIR WITH THESE 20 RIFLES!
...
TUP
!?
YOUR NAME S NAKORURU, RIGHT? I-I BELIEVE YOU.
BUT I'M NOT HERE FOR CUTTING OUT THE DARKNESS OR SAVING THE WORLD! I DON'T NEED THE PRETENSE, NAKORURU--
CHING
WOOSH

--I JUST WANT TO FIGHT THE *STRONG ONES!* *THAT'S* MY SOLE PURPOSE!
FA-SHA-SH!
RROWWRR!

KA WEEEE
I'LL FIGHT-- BUT FOR *MY OWN* REASONS. FAIR ENOUGH?

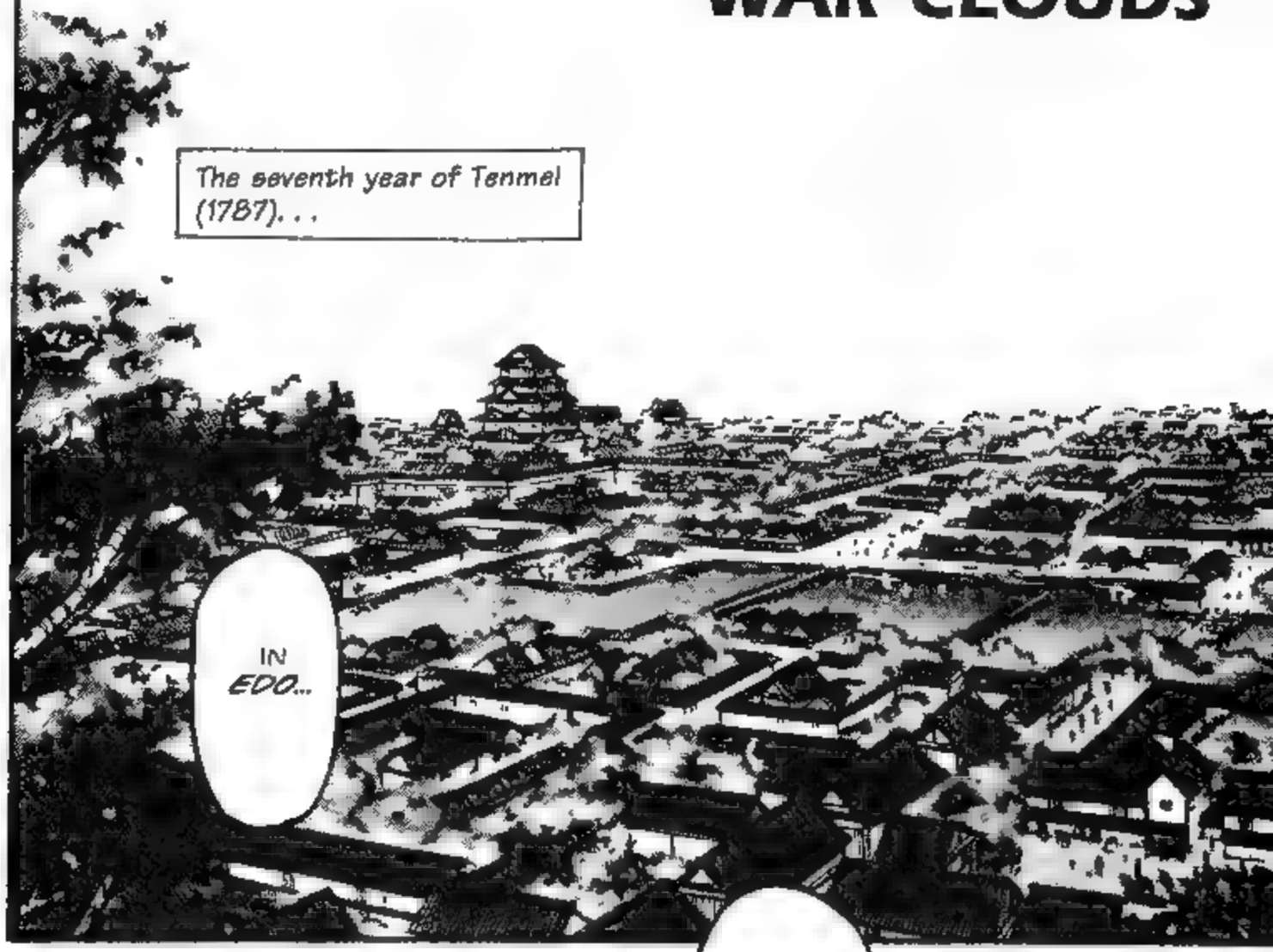
IT'LL *HAVE* TO BE.
Haohmaru's my best bet. . . my ONLY bet!

UNGH.
TCHH
TCHH
O-DAMN. A WHOLE *CARTON* OF STOLEN RIFLES-- FOR *NOTHING!*
STCHA
IT'S UP TO *ME*. . AND I *WILL*. . KILL HIM.

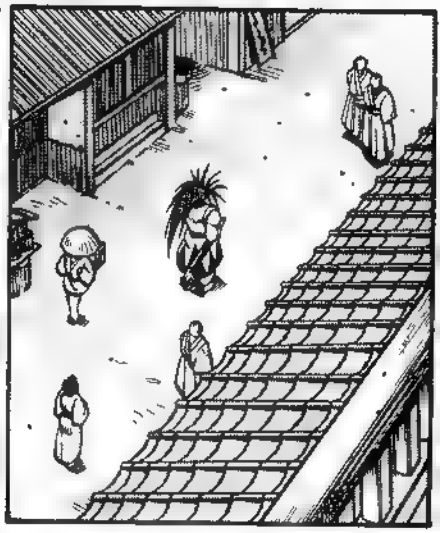
GAAH!
SLUMP
STISH
OOOH.
...
GUESS I SHOULD SAY THANK YOU.
BUT I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME.
NO NEED FOR THANKS I SIMPLY FULFILLED MY PURPOSE
ARE YOU, PERHAPS, SENT BY SHOGUN. . .?
I CANNOT REVEAL MYSELF NOW · · BUT WE MAY MEET AGAIN. N EDO
TMSH
HE'S STRONG.
YEAH, AMAZINGLY STRONG.
TOOF
HE SAID WE MIGHT MEET AGAIN! THIS COULD BE AN ADVENTURE!
TA-TOOM
Edo..

IT WON'T BE LONG! HE'LL COME TO EDO.
SNICK
. . AND, AT LAST, I WILL AVENGE MY FATHER, KOHGA MURYOHKEN . . .!
DOOM!
HIS NAME IS HAOHMARU! YOU ARE MY WITNESS, MYSTIC KING FUDO!
I, NAGIRI OF KOHGA, WILL DROWN HIM IN HIS OWN BLOOD!

BATTLE TWO
WAR CLOUDS



BATTLE TWO
WAR CLOUDS



SKEE
KRAK

IT IS I, NAGIRI OF THE KOGA NINJA SCHOOL!
SHSSHST
LONG TIME NO SEE, HAOH MARU.
SAS
STOP, NAGIRI!

THE BLACK-WINGED ENCIRCLE-MENT!
WOOOSH

JNGH!

I HAVE COME TO AVENGE MY FATHER!

SNIK

SWAK!
KWEEE!!

SKLISH

RROOWWRR!!
WHACK
WUMP
TUMP
SHAA
GO AHEAD — KILL ME, HAOHMARU! KILL ME, OR YOU'LL REGRET IT.
I DID NOT KILL YOUR FATHER. MURYOHKEN KOGA WAS MY FRIEND...
SHUT UP! HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT!
GKK

SKLEEE
KA-KANG
CAN'T YOU JUST LISTEN FOR A-
SHOOM
SHASH
TCH!
BONK
YIKES
WAIT! LISTEN TO ME, NAGIRI!
FSH
SHE'S GONE.
I SAVE YOU, AND THIS IS THE THANKS I GET?!
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO LEFT WITHOUT LEAVING ANY MESSAGE!
NAKORURU, WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME?
OH, SORRY.

SO THAT'S THE GRAVE.
YES. AN OLD FRIEND — A NINJA NAMED MURYOHKEN KOGA.
SO, LIKE, WAS HE THAT WOMAN'S FATHER...
SHUT UP!

FWIP
SHAW
SHAW
SORRY— THAT WAS RUDE. BUT NAGIRI IS MY PROBLEM...
KAK

TRISH
TISH
!?
SIR. I-I BEG OF YOU.
PLIP
SPLIP

PLEASE.. TAKE THIS.. YOU MUST..
KOEF
!

HOLD STILL! NOW, WHAT HAPPENED !?

DAMN . HE'S BEEN CLAWED ALL OVER— LIKE SOME BEAST GOT AT HIM!

MY LAST WISH. PLEASE. I LEAVE ALL IN YOUR HANDS.
SSSSSS

?
LOOK OUT!

AIEEE!
FWOOM

SPSSST
SHSST

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION..! THIS MAN MUST BE A NINJA.

THERE'S A POSSE IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE GOTTEN INTO THE MIDDLE OF A BIG MESS.
CAWWW...
FOOSH!

ARE THEY STILL AFTER US?

FOUR FIVE... NO, THERE ARE MORE! THEY'RE KEEPING A CONSISTENT DISTANCE FROM US.

THEIR SCENT DIS-APPEARED.
DAMN
THEY CAN'T BE FAR AWAY
IT'LL BE NIGHT SOON LET'S GET MORE OF US.
YESSIR!

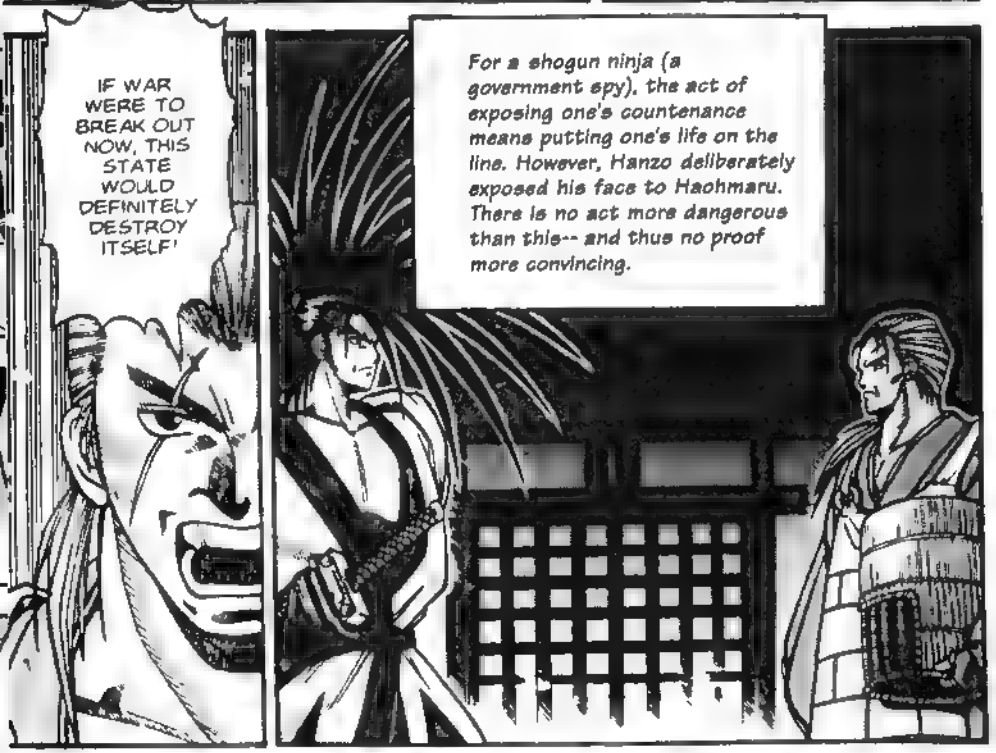
FIP
THEY MUST HAVE LOST US.
I SURE HOPE SO.
I ASSUME THIS IS SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT -BUT WHAT?
A WOODEN DOLL!
DUH
DO YOU THINK I'M THAT DUMB!?
OUCH! OW, STOP IT, NAKORURU! OUCH

LOOK!
TO K
A SCROLL?
...
GOSH, THIS IS INCRED-IBLE
WHAT IS IT?
PFF
!
FWOOM
STAY..

WOULD YOU HAND THAT TO ME, HAOHMARU?
SHOOM
YOU! WE'VE MET BEFORE
AND I TAKE IT YOU KNOW WHAT THIS SCROLL IS ALL ABOUT.
IT IS A PLEDGE WRITTEN IN THE NAME OF THE FIVE POWERFUL WARLORDS OF THIS LAND
.DECLARING THAT THEY WILL AMASS SOLDIERS AND ATTACK EDO AND OSAKA FROM THE NORTH AND SOUTH, ALL AT ONCE.
YES.
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
IT MEANS THAT SOMEONE WANTS TO REVIVE THE CIVIL WAR!

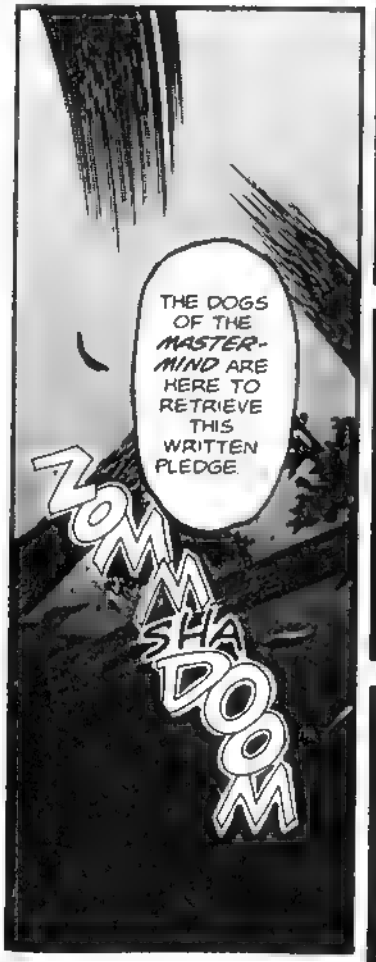
THAT'S YOUR GAME! YOU'RE A SHOGUNATE SPY!
WE HAVE BEEN COMMANDED BY THE ELDERS IN THE GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT THIS CONSPIRACY—
HOW CAN WE TRUST YOU!?
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.
!
FOR I AM HANZO HATTORI OF THE IGA NINJA SCHOOL

EVER SINCE THE FAMINE OF TENMEI, CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN DESPERATE EVERY LAND SUFFERS, BUT IF WAR-LORDS FROM THE PROVINCES DECLARE WAR
THE WORST SUFFERING WILL BE THAT OF THE COMMON PEOPLE
THE ODOR OF ROTTING CORPSES WILL FILL THE STREETS, AND THE CRY OF ORPHANED INFANTS WILL ECHO IN THE AIR!


IF WAR WERE TO BREAK OUT NOW, THIS STATE WOULD DEFINITELY DESTROY ITSELF!
For a shogun ninja (a government spy), the act of exposing one's countenance means putting one's life on the line. However, Hanzo deliberately exposed his face to Haohmaru. There is no act more dangerous than this-- and thus no proof more convincing.

HAOHMARU, HE'S NOT LYING TO US. I CAN SEE IT
YEAH.
SHUP

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE SURROUNDED
WHAT ?!


THE DOGS OF THE MASTER-MIND ARE HERE TO RETRIEVE THIS WRITTEN PLEDGE.
ZOMMSHADOOM

KILL THEM ALL!
The scroll — snatch it!

KILL THEM!

THEY'RE COMING SUCH BLOOD-THIRSTY SPIRITS !

PREPARE TO FACE THE SHIRANUI FORCE!
FWOOM

AHHHH! THE ME-MEN HAVE ARRIVED!
A BIT TARDY BUT JUST THE OPPONENTS I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

SHWISH

TWEEK

TK
TK
TK
?!

!!
KYAAAA!!

CRESCENT MOON SLASH!
SKEEEE
TH ONK
FOOL! EVEN IN THE AIR YOU'RE MY TARGET!
MY CROSS-BLADE SHURIKEN WILL TAKE YOU OUT!
FK
FK
FK
KATANGKK

WHA...!?
THE FOUR SHADOWS !?
SHA
A

HERE COMES HATTORI HANZO OF IGA!
TUMP

MOZU! IN THE NAME OF BENI GUMO, I WILL AVENGE YOU!
HSSSSS
TUNK
AHA
GYAAH!
NINJA TELE-PORT!

hff
hff
KA KA KA KA KA
hff
I FEEL IT ! THIS IS THE SAME DARK SPIRIT THAT SURROUNDS EDO
WHO ARE YOU!?
GEN-AN SHIRANU!!

SHEEM
SKLKT
HE'S.. STRONG!
WUMP
WHA --!?
OH!
WELL DONE! YOU STOPPED MY AZAMI ATTACK!
BYOOSH!

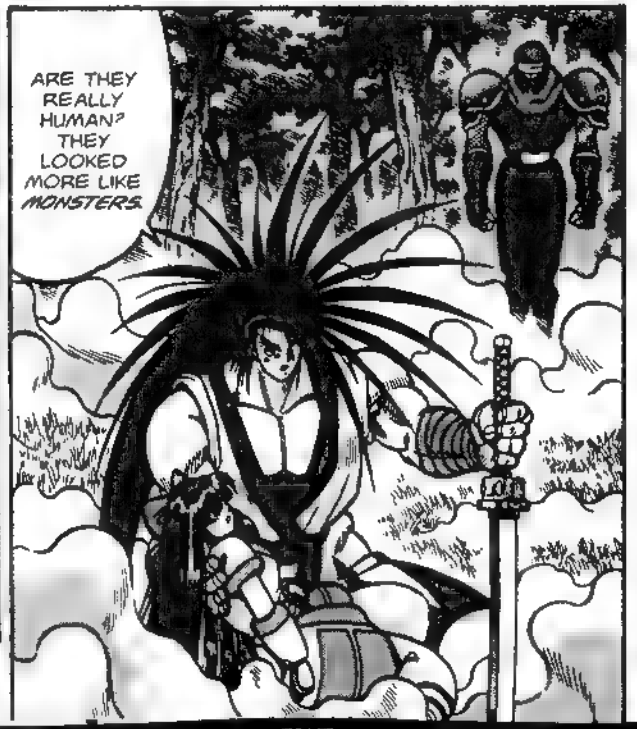
WSHH
YIKES!
POISON VAPOR! WHAT A DIRTY TRICK!
DIRTY TRICK? THAT'S PRAISE TO ME!
SHAFSH
KYEEHI
THOK
!?
DAMMIT!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

CAP'N GEN-AN! THIS WAY!

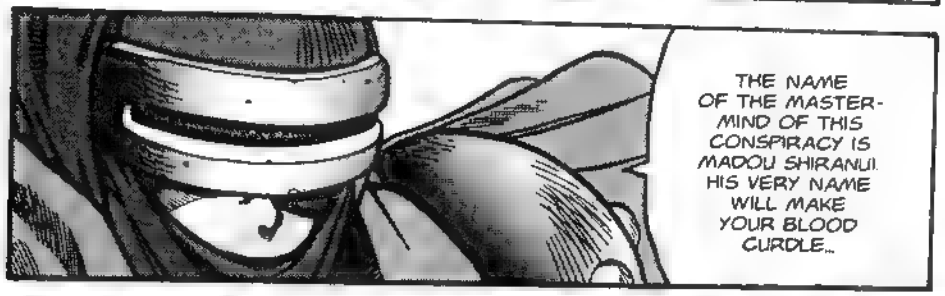
HIKIROKU! WE'LL RETREAT-- FOR NOW!
FOOMP

HSSSLL
TCH


ARE THEY REALLY HUMAN? THEY LOOKED MORE LIKE MONSTERS.

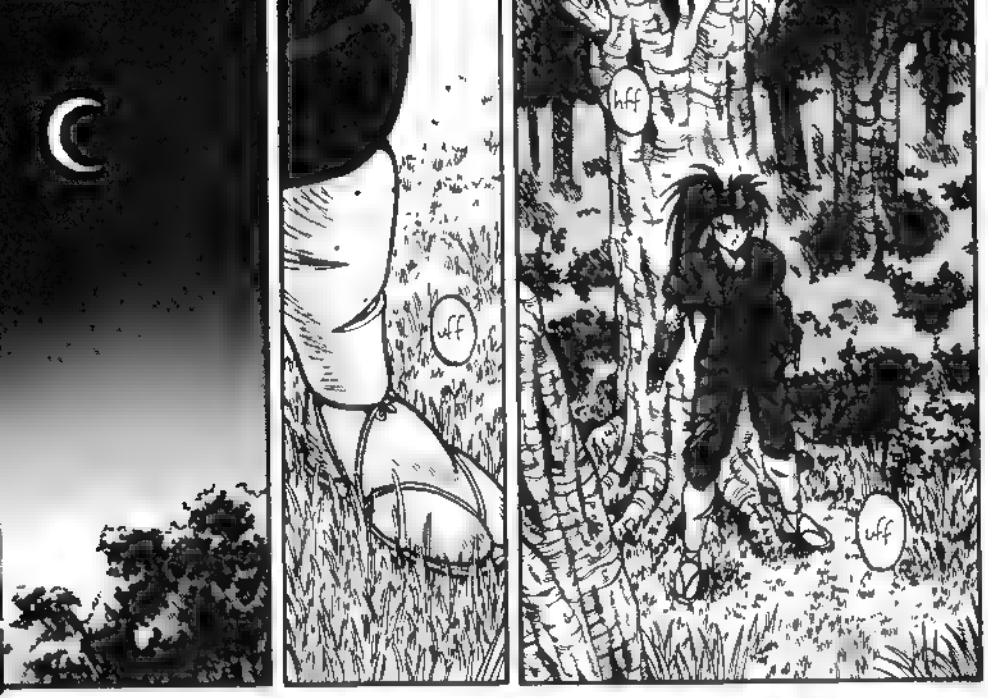
THE SHIRANUI FORCE..
A GROUP OF BEINGS WHO ARE-- AND ARE NOT-HUMAN.

HANZO, YOU SAID SOMEONE IS BEHIND ALL THIS. WHO?


THE NAME OF THE MASTER-MIND OF THIS CONSPIRACY IS MADOU SHIRANUI. HIS VERY NAME WILL MAKE YOUR BLOOD CURDLE...

MADOU SHIRANUI, HUH? SOUNDS GOOD TO ME...!
?

I TOLD YOU - I'M LOOKIN' FOR TOUGH GUYS!
TOOM
TOOM
AND THIS HE MAN MADOU SHIRANUI SOUNDS TOUGH INDEED!


huff
huff
huff

WO WO WO
NAGIRI OF KOUGA, I WILL GIVE YOU THE POWER TO AVENGE YOUR FATHER--
--THE POWER OF DARKNESS... [illegible] TO DEFEAT!

FWEEP
FWEEP
!?
MY NAME IS MADOU SHIRANUI!

RIP
NOOOOO!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING... IT SOUNDED LIKE SOMEONE - PLEADING FOR HELP...!

EARTHLINGS WHO RISE AGAINST ME -- I WILL DRAG YOU ALL INTO THE *HELL* OF THIS PETTY WORLD!
THIS I SWEAR-- FOR I AM THE SORCERER *MADOU SHIRANUI!*

BATTLE THREE
HELLFIRE

KA-KA
BLAM
THIS VILE SPELL EXERTS POWER ONLY ON A VIRGIN.
DARK NINPO.. SKIN OF NIGHT-MARE!
BOOM
BOOM

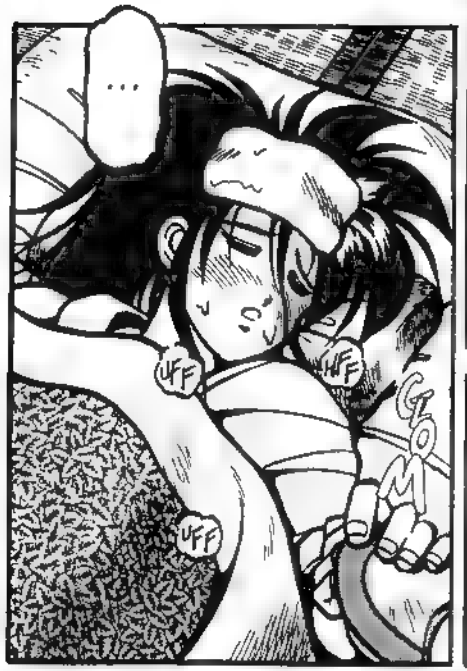
GEN AN..?
YES, MASTER MADOU..
I ATTACKED THEM, AS YOU ORDERED! THE *PLEDGE*-- THEY HAVE BROUGHT IT INTO EDO, TO THE HATTORI MANSION OF KOUJI CITY..
THE GATE OF HANZO.. CLEVER OF THEM. IT IS A PLACE MOST DIFFICULT FOR US TO REACH..
BLAM

The Kouji-machi Gate to Edo Castle — also known as the GATE OF HANZO.
Behind these walls is the stronghold of the Iga Clan, who guard Edo Castle and direct government espionage. In short, this is the house of HATTORI HANZO.
KRA-KRESH!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO PIG-HEADED?
STOP BUTTING IN, HAOH MARU!!
YOU CANT REFUSE TO LET ME JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE SHIRANUI COALITION, HANZO!
THIS ISNT YOUR MISSION! I CANT LET YOU GET INVOLVED!
BUT THERE ARE ME-MEN TO FIGHT!
FWAK
THIS IS NO GAME, BOY!
BUT I CAN HELP!
KA-KLAK
BONK
NO! FORGET IT!

CUT IT OUT, YOU GUYS!
FWAP
PHEW
...
LET'S GO, MAMAHAHA! WE'LL PLAY IN THE BACK-YARD!
FWP
IT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS ALREADY!
WHUMP
HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO HANG AROUND HERE!?
I CANNOT LET YOU PEOPLE LEAVE THIS PLACE— NOT YET.
THIS MANSION IS SURROUNDED BY THE FORCE SHIELD OF IGA NINPO—
—IT'S THE ULTIMATE DEFENSE. EVEN MADOU SHIRANUI'S FORCES WON'T BE ABLE TO ATTACK US HERE
!
ISN'T THAT..

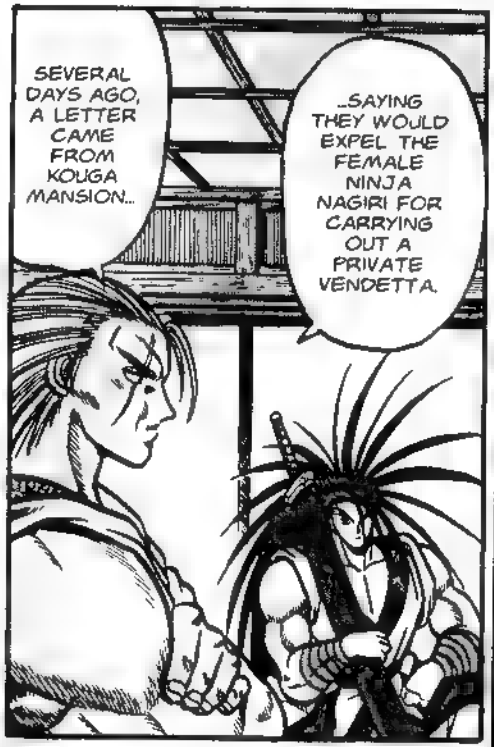
SHLUMP
HAOH-MARU!
NAGIRI!?

HFF
UFF
..SO HOT.. H-HELP
FATHER..
AH!


...
UFF
HFF
GOM
UFF

POOR NAGIRI. SUCH A TERRIBLE FEVER

IT'S AS IF SHE'S BURNING UP INSIDE! WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED!?


SEVERAL DAYS AGO, A LETTER CAME FROM KOUGA MANSION...
..SAYING THEY WOULD EXPEL THE FEMALE NINJA NAGIRI FOR CARRYING OUT A PRIVATE VENDETTA.

IF YOU DON'T MIND. MAY I ASK WHAT CONNECTION YOU HAVE WITH HER?

FOUR YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS TRAVELING THE COUNTRY-SIDE TO PRACTICE MY SWORD SKILLS..
...I MET A MAN NAMED MURYOHKEN KOUGA IN A TOWN NEAR A CASTLE IN KYUSHU.

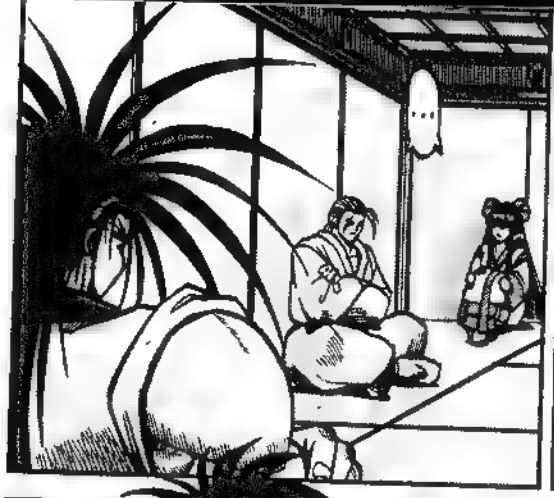
FOR SOME REASON, WE HIT IT OFF RIGHT AWAY... SO WE CHOSE TO TRAVEL TOGETHER.
IT WAS AN EASY FRIENDSHIP, AND I WAS GLAD TO HAVE A COMRADE.
BUT ONE DAY...

RUN, HAOHMARU! IT'S THE NINJA-HUNTING TROOPS OF SATSUMA!
SO! YOU'RE A SHOGUNATE SPY!

SATSUMA'S NINJA HUNTERS NEVER TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY FOR THEIR KILLING!
THEY HIDE THEIR WORK BY FRAMING OTHERS WHO HAPPEN TO BE THERE— BYSTANDERS LIKE YOU, HAOHMARU!

S SORRY.. I GOT YOU INTO TROUBLE..
DON'T SPEAK! A DOCTOR-
A FLOWER.. MY DAUGHTER.. NAGIRI.
NOT A NINJA, BUT A FREE WOMAN, BLOOMING LIKE A WILD-FLOWER IN A MEADOW..
SPLHH
LISTEN! MY DAUGHTER
UFF
HFF
-DON'T LET HER BECOME A NINJA LIKE ME, A SPY IN FOREIGN LANDS..

N NOT THE LAST WORDS ONE EXPECTS.. FROM A NINJA..
UFF
NO, MURY OHKEN!
YOU STUPID-! YOU CAN'T DIE LIKE THIS!


...

IT CAN'T BE...

OH!
THEN WHAT WAS I..?

NAGIRI!

THE SPIRIT OF DARKNESS- IT'S COALESCING AROUND NAGIRI...!

PLEASE FORGIVE ME.. HAOH-MARU..
SO HOT...
AAAAGGGH!
GET AWAY, HAOHMARU! STAY AWAY FROM ME!
FWASH!

!
NAGIRI
FOOSH!
I AM MADOU SHIRANUI!
I HAVE PASSED THROUGH THE GATE OF HANZO! THE GIRL IS MINE!

FWOOM
FWOOM
MAN THE WALLS! IT'S AN AIR ATTACK!
KE KE KE KE KEEH!
SPOO
DRAK
KILL! THE TALONED FIEND COMMANDS!

FWOOSH
IGA'S FORCES ARE AS FRAGILE AS GLASS-- FROM THE INSIDE!
ISN'T THAT SO, HATTORI HANZO?
SHUT UP, SHIRANUI!
DON'T! PLEASE!
WUMF
Ungh...
SKSH

Damn! She still has... consciousness... left...
HAOHMARU... I'M SORRY... I...
STOP!
BOOM
KE KE KE KE KEEH!
HATTORI HANZO! WE HAVE THE WRITTEN OATH BACK! KE, KE, KE!

HAOH-MARU! LET'S GO!
MADOU SHIRANUI! I WILL KILL YOU MYSELF! I SWEAR!
YEAH.

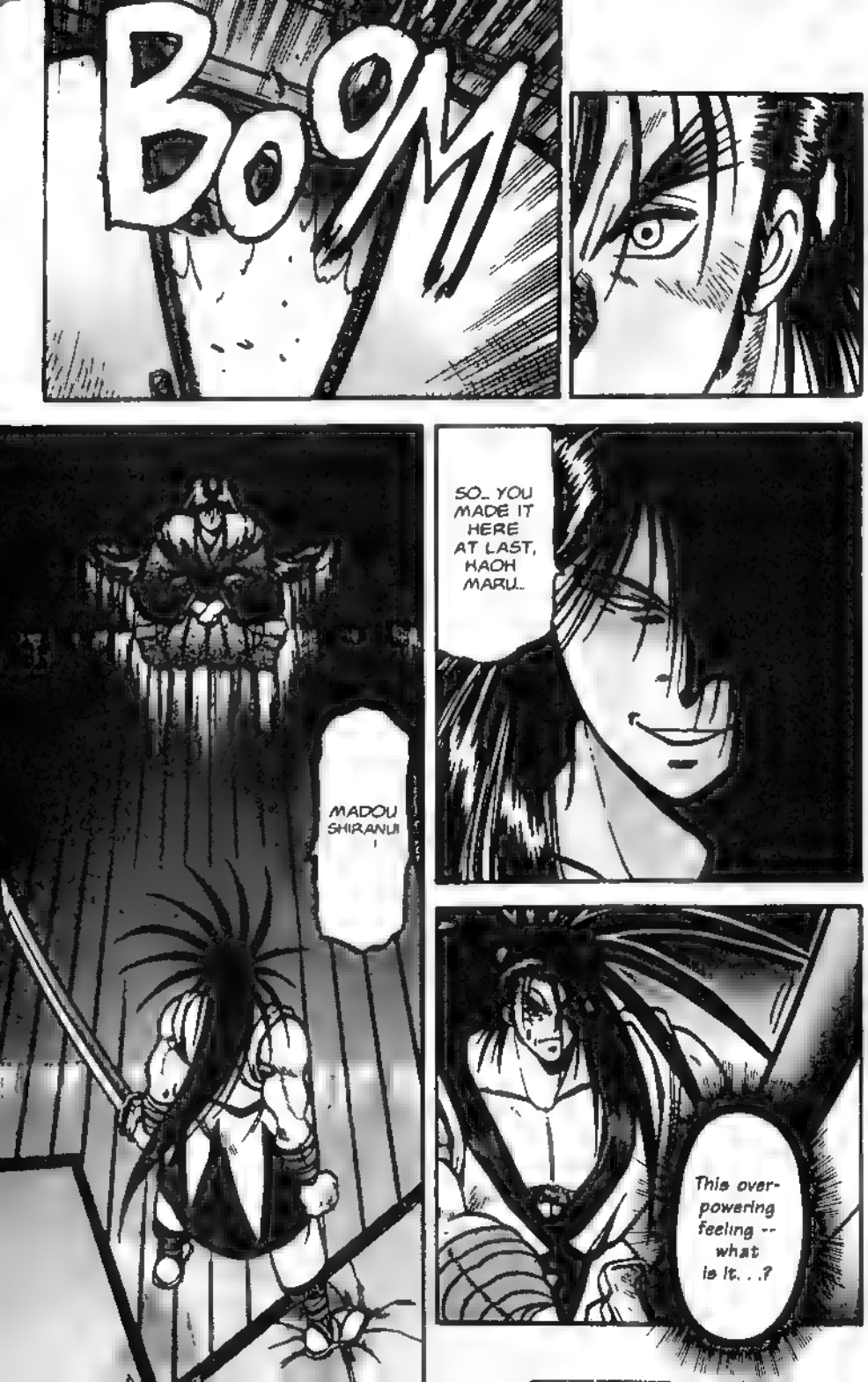
FSHH
They plan to take the scroll to Shiranui Mansion, on Kijin Point!
TMP TMP
HAI-YA!

The spirit of darkness I followed from Kamui Kotan... it's getting stronger!
We're almost there... The NUCLEUS of the dark power that would destroy our world is at hand...

THIS IS THE SHIRANUI STRONG-HOLD! THIS NIGHTMARE MUST END--
AYE!
YA-FUM
ANNIHILATE THEM!

GET OUT OF MY WAY — OR FACE MY FURY!
SLASH
SLASH
I WON'T LET YOU GO ANY FURTHER! KE, KE!
HAOH-MARU! I'LL TAKE THIS ONE!
SHAS H
YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT ME, GEN-AN!
KLIK
SHK
TICK

KE KE KE KEEH! YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME WITH YOUR ELEGANT SWORD TECHNIQUES!? KE!
TOOM
THE SHIRANUI DEMONS, YOU WHO PLAY WITH OTHERS' LIVES...!
YOU CANNOT BE FORGIVEN!


BOOM
SO.. YOU MADE IT HERE AT LAST, HAOH MARU..
MADOU SHIRANUI!
This over-powering feeling -- what is it...?

YOU HAVE INJURED MY HAND..
ZU ZU ZU
WHAT!?
ONLY INSIDE THE VISION OF THAT LITTLE GIRL, NAKORURU..
THE EVIL HAIR ENCIRCLEMENT! THE SHADOW THAT MANTLES THIS ROOM— IT IS ALL MY HAIR!
ZWOOM
I CAN TRANSFORM IT INTO ANYTHING! ARROWS, BLADES, NOOSES!
SHALL I SLICE YOUR BODY INTO A HUNDRED PIECES!?
SK-IK
SK-IK
SK-IK

SNIK
HANZO
!
SHI
SHI
TASH
HAOH-MARU, CREATE A WHIRL WIND!
KA-WHAM
CHA-
FWOOM
NINJA DRAGON FIRE!

CYCLONE SLASH
!
TWIRL

THESE FLAMES..! NOTHING I CAN DO!
ROOWRR!
BWOOM
IRON SPLITTER SLASH!

WHA..?
MADOU VANISHED !?
DID YOU THINK YOU COULD SO EASILY DEFEAT ME—
THE DARKEST SORCERER OF OUR AGE!?
ZA SH
THERE IS MORE TO ME THAN YOU REALIZE! MADOU SHIRANUI IS NOT MY ONLY NAME!

I HAVE TAKEN THE FORM OF THE DEVIL AMBROSIA-
-BUT I AM ALSO CALLED YUI MINBUNOSUKE SHOSETSU! I HAVE COME FROM THE DARK KINGDOM MAKAI TO FINALLY REALIZE MY DREAM!

IT CAN'T BE! YUI SHOSETSU WAS A MILITARY SCHOLAR! HE SCHEMED TO OVER-THROW THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE A CENTURY AGO!

KE KE KE, HAOHMARU! LOOKY HERE! I'M GONNA TAKE YOUR GIRL!
JUMP

NAKO-RURU!

THSH

KE KE KE KE KE!
FWOOSH

DAMN!
MADOU... I MEAN- SHOSETSU... HE EVEN PREPARED A SHIP.

..AND I CAN GUESS WHERE THEY'RE HEADING — TO THE SHIRANUI PARTY'S BASE... KIKOKU ISLAND!
THEN I WILL GO TO THAT ISLAND..!
TO AVENGE NAGIRI! AND TO BRING BACK NAKORURU!
AFTER SHAKE
JUST YOU WAIT, YUI SHOSETSU! I'LL CHASE YOU TO THE DEPTHS OF HELL!
I, HAOHMARU, WILL DESTROY YOU!

BATTLE-FOUR
OGRE'S HOWL

♫ Ohlululu, oho, oho, o
Milk of sleep has descended
Quietly. . .
Ohlululu, oho, oho, o ♫
Boat of sleep has descended
Quietly. . . ♪
I LOVE YOUR PRETTY SONG, GRANDMA.
REMEMBER, NAKORURU...
GRANDMA CAN SEE -- YES! YOU ARE FATED TO GO ON A JOURNEY... WITH A SWORD IN YOUR HAND!
THAT'S WHY YOU MUST NEVER FORGET THESE SONGS.
THE SWORD TEARS PEOPLE APART... BUT SONG UNITES PEOPLE TOGETHER —
SAAAH
LISTEN TO MY LULLABY NOW, SWEET-HEART... FOR THE SWORD AWAITS YOU..
SAAAH

GOD OF SLEEP, LET THIS CHILD HAVE PEACE - FOR NOW...
SHA-CHI-KU
MONA-SHIRI... GRANDMA..
SNUK
CHU
OH... OHH. !

SHA
ZAAA
THE RAPID CURRENT LEAVES ALL THE APPROACH-ING SHIPS STRANDED ON A REEF.
CORPSES THAT WERE DRAWN INTO THESE WHIRLPOOLS HAVE NEVER RISEN IN THIS TREACH-EROUS SEA.
THE HOWL OF THE WIND FROM THE ISLAND SOUNDS AS IF OGRES ARE CRYING OUT FROM HELL...
AOOOH
PEOPLE CALL IT KIKOKU ISLAND— 'THE ISLAND WHERE OGRES HOWL'.

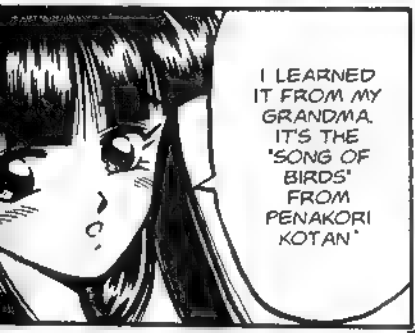
SHIRANJI'S FORCES MUST HAVE NOTICED OUR APPROACH. WHAT KIND OF TRAPS ARE WAITING FOR US?
HEY— YOU MEN! SINCE WHEN DID YOU GET REPLACED?
W WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SIR.? MR. HATTORI...
WE'RE ALREADY IN THEIR TRAP..
GUH.
SKA-SPR
YAAH!?

THUD
MEN OF IGA NEVER CALL ME MR. HATTORI!
THEY CALL ME CHIEF— MASTER HANZO TO YOU!
skrrf
trf
RRRIPP
WHA..!?
KRA TOOM
WHAT!? THAT SMELL— DYNA-MITE!
KE KE KE KEEH! HAPPY TO SEE US?! WE ARE THE SHIRANUI CLAN!
WE'LL KILL YOU TWO JUST LIKE THOSE IGA MEN! KEN!
WHOA!

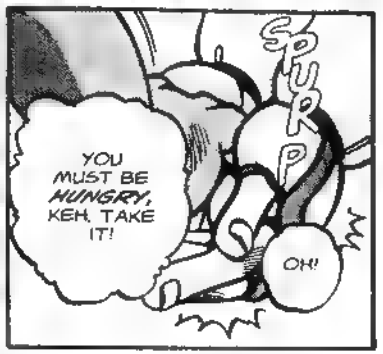
THRUP
ONLY WE OF SHIRANUI UNDER STAND THE DARK WATERS! YOU WILL SUCCUMB TO THE WHIRL-POOL!
DAMN!
NAOMARU! WE'LL HAVE TO SWIM TO SHORE!
I FORGOT TO MENTION ONE THING!
SHA ZA AN
WHAT?
ZA ZI ZI
WHAT!?
I CAN'T SWIM!

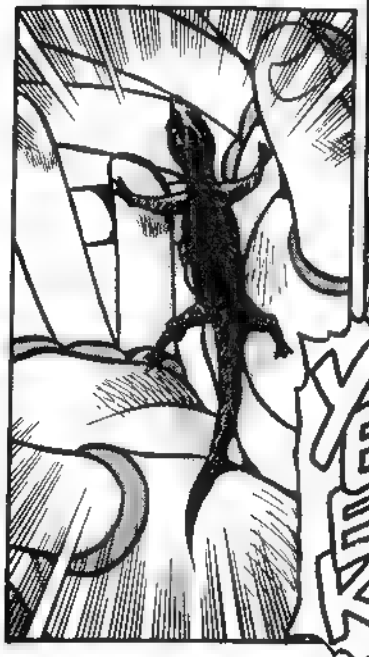
SO THIS IS THE VILLAGE OF THE SHIRANUI CLAN...
HA, HA!
HA, HA, HA!
POOM
POOM
KEH...
POP

YOU LAUGH AT US?
TEE HEE
HEE
YOU TRY IT, GIRLIE! KE!
PLOP
KAKKOH, KAKKOH NO FISH-- NO FISH IN SHIKOTSU RIVER.. KAKKOH, KAKKOH MANY FISH-- MANY FISH IN TOUBETSU RIVER..
HUH!?
KAKKOH, KAKKOH NO FISH-- NO FISH IN SHIKOTSU RIVER.. KAKKOH, KAKKOH MANY FISH-- MANY FISH IN TOUBETSU RIVER.



*An Ainu tribe in the Hidaka area of Hokkaido





WE SHIRANUI PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT FROM YOU! RESPECT THAT!
DIFFERENT? IN WHAT WAY?
A LONG TIME AGO, OUR ANCESTOR LANDED ON THIS ISLAND — AN ANCESTOR THAT WAS NOT HUMAN.
BUT AN OGRE! THE SHIRANUI TRIBE ARE THE OFFSPRING OF AN OGRE AND A HUMAN!
HYO

ZA ZA ZA N
AND THIS SEA? WHAT'S BEYOND IT?
NO ONE HAS GONE TO THE FAR SIDE TO THE DARK KINGDOM!
W WHERE?
THIS IS THE UNDER GROUND SHORE WHERE OUR ANCESTOR LANDED.
MADOU SHIRANUI— KNOWN AS THE MASTER YUI SHOSETSU— DRIFTED FROM THE DARK KINGDOM OF MAKAI TO OUR SHORE FIVE YEARS AGO.
TO ISSUE THE ORDER OF WAR TO THE SHIRANUI CLAN. THE PEOPLE OF THE DARKNESS!
BA HO
AH— YOU HAVE COME, NAKORURU, DAUGHTER OF THE NORTH WHO SERVES GOD..

YUI SHO-SETSU—!
FA
MOOSH
SKLICH

NH
MP
OUCH!
DON'T HASTEN TO YOUR DEATH, CHILD... YOU ARE HERE TO WITNESS THE RITUAL THAT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
WHEN THE RITUAL IS OVER, YOU CAN MEET YOUR END
mgh...

ZZZT
AFTER YOUR DEATH, TELL YOUR GOD—
—THAT THE TRUE RULER OF THIS WORLD IS THE DEVIL AMBROSIA!

DEMONS OF HELL, YOU WHO CREATE CHAOS IN THE UNIVERSE.
...ZARIA TONATOMICS ETITONAMUS ERIONA OREA ORASIM MOZIM...

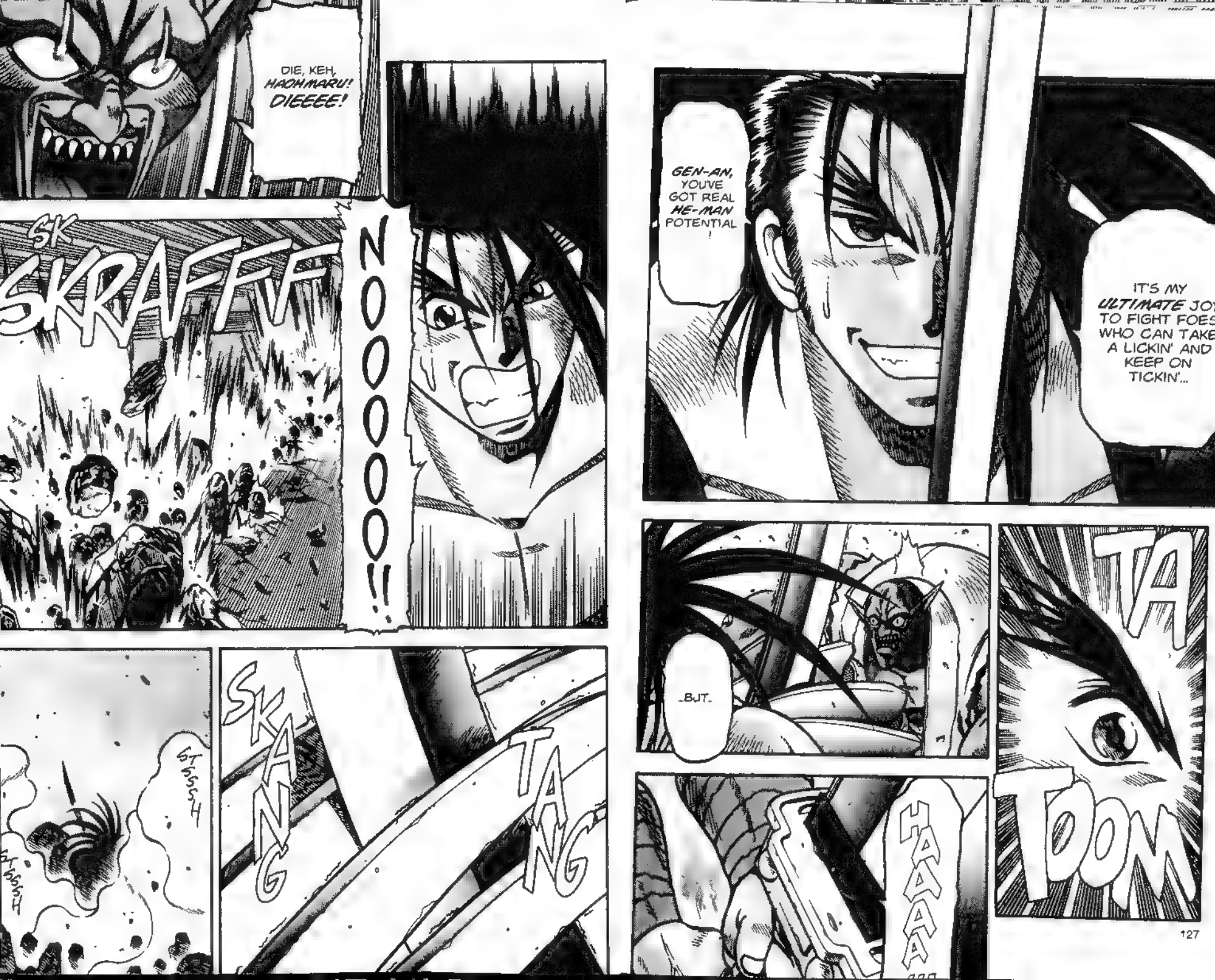
FA
NHASHT

WHA!?

BLAM
LEAVE BEHIND YOUR DARK DWELLING PLACES AND CROSS THE SEA OF THE NETHER-WORLD! AVE AMBROSIA!
...AWAKE FROM LONG SLEEP AND DELIVER UNTO ME A THOUSAND MEN!
KRAKA
BLAM
OH.. OHH..
GKRUK
QUITE A MOUTHFUL, THIS DUDE'S INCANTATIONS, EH?

FWOM
HAOH-MARU!
YEAH, YOU! YUI SHO-SETSU!
I WON'T LET YOU TOUCH THAT GIRL, SHOSETSU!
KEH!
ZAPASH
WOW...

KAMP
HANZO!
ZOKK
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, HAOH-MARU..? KEH!
TOOM
TOOM
HEH. DIDN'T THINK THAT GIGANTIC WHIRLPOOL WOULD DELIVER ME HERE, DID YOU?!
TOOM
WELL, THIS TIME I'LL FINISH YOU OFF! KEH!
KRAKANG
EAT BUZZ SAW, BABY! KEH!


DIE, KEH, HAOHMARU! DIEEEE!
SK SKRAFFF
NOOOOO!!
GEN-AN, YOU'VE GOT REAL HE-MAN POTENTIAL!
IT'S MY ULTIMATE JOY TO FIGHT FOES WHO CAN TAKE A LICKIN' AND KEEP ON TICKIN'...
..BUT..
TA
TOOM
HAAAA
SKANG
TANG
SSSSH
SSSSH

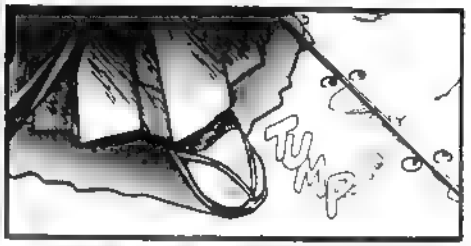
KASHRING
...YOU HAVEN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES!
KEH !?
WASH
TOOM P
HUH !?

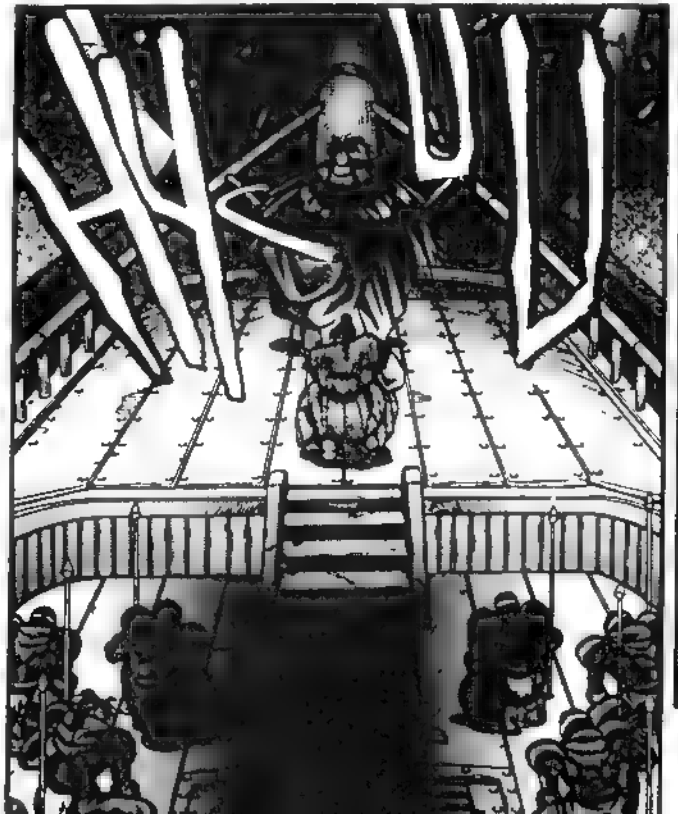
WHAT'S THAT!?
SOMETHING'S COMING. SOMETHING TREMENDOUSLY EVIL IS COMING!
HEH HEH HEH...
OH! THE BATTLESHIP OF THE NETHER-WORLD, YOMOTSU, HAS ANSWERED MY PRAYER!!
ZSHFWSH
ZZASH FWSHH

SHO-SETSU!!
THIS IS FOR NAGIRI!
HEH!!
KRESH
OK
TH
UGH!

FOOM

WAIT, SHO-SETSU!

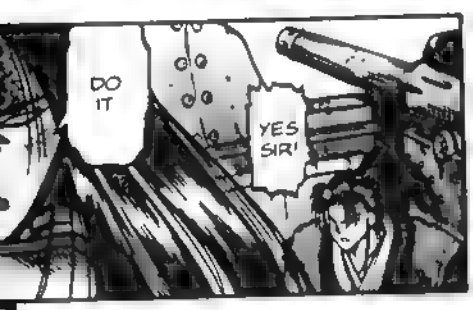

TUMP


HUH

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I AM SHIRO COMMAND ME AS YOU DESIRE MASTER SHOSETSU . . .

THIS WAS NO BETRAYAL! THIS WAS MY PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING
NOW THAT I HAVE SUMMONED AMBROSIA'S ARMY. . .
I NO LONGER HAVE NEED OF YOU! YOUR WORK IS OVER, GEN AN.


DO IT
YES SIR!

DOOM
BA
DOOM!

GYAAH!
KRAKABLAM
MASTER SHOSETSUUU!
YOU TRAITOR! YOU BETRAYED US, SHOSETSU!

KA BLA SH
D-DAMN YOU, DARK ONE!

FS FS FS FS

TH THAT'S

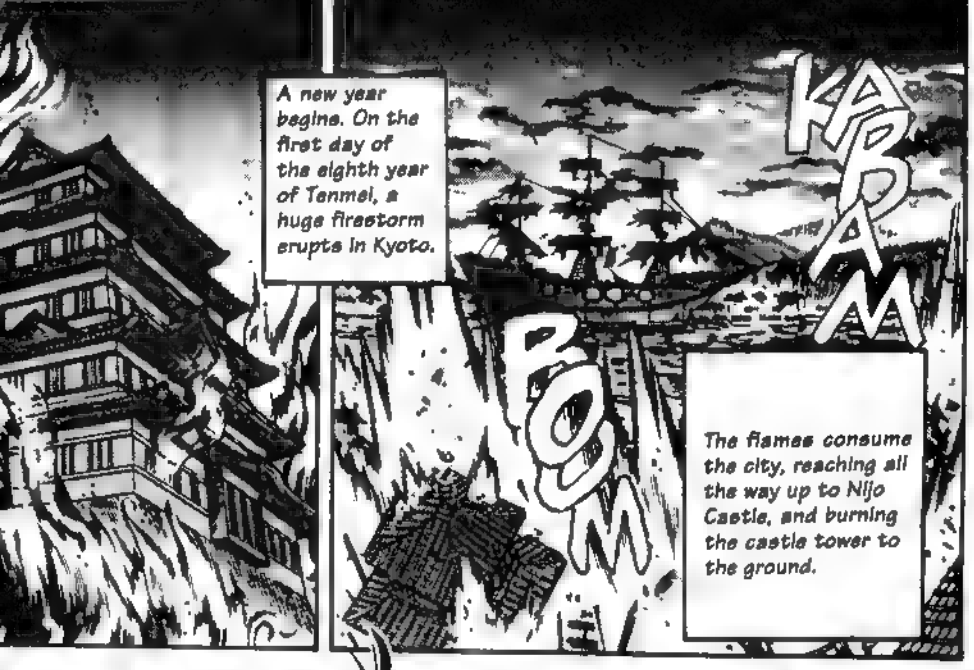
NO — NO WAY...! SHE'S DEAD...
WHA ?
NAGIRI !?
FS FS FS ES
HAOH MARU?
W WAIT! NAGIRI! WAIT!
TUNK
KRUNKA
YIKES!
TOO DANGEROUS HERE — LET'S GET UP TO THE SURFACE!
HAOH MARU! HAOH-MARU !
FWSH FWSH SHSH
AAAH! AAAH! DADDY..!
I'M SCARED DADDY~!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, NAKORURU ?
THAT VOICE..!
IT'S TOO RISKY! GET BACK HERE, NAKORURU!

KRAKASHRAK
WHAWUMM
NAKO-RURU—! NOOOO!
FWUMP
WAAAH! WAAAH!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT
KAWWW
FWAP
FWAP
MAMA-HAHA! YOU'RE HERE TOO...

ZSHFWSH
ZSHFWSH
SKANG
UFF
HFF
DAMN IT...
SHOSETSU! GIVE BACK NAGIRI!
ZA-FOOSH

Carrying a cargo of never-ending HATRED and a crew of DARK WARRIORS, the netherworld battleship YOMOTSU was freed. No one knew yet what awaited them at the END of this journey!

BATTLE FIVE
NETHERWORLD


A new year begins. On the first day of the eighth year of Tenmei, a huge firestorm erupts in Kyoto.
KARAM
BOOM
The flames consume the city, reaching all the way up to Nijo Castle, and burning the castle tower to the ground.

BURN! LET THE OLD ORDER BE ASHES AND SMOKE! THE RULER OF THIS WORLD IS NEITHER GOD NOR BUDDHA!
IT IS I, YUI SHOSETSU, BAPTIZED BY THE DEVIL AMBROSIA!

TMTMPTATMP
YAAH!
HELP ME—! HELP!
GWAH!
SKLAK

SKURP
AIEE!
SNIK

Oh.
Oh.
THE DEAD — THEY RETURN TO THE WORLD FUELED BY DEEP RESENTMENT
FWOMP
YOU AREN'T HEROES HERE!
SHMMB
SHFF
HEH
AT LAST— A CHALLENGE!
GR
AAH
HAOH'MARU, WILL DEMOLISH YOU ALL!

FOOOSH
TNK
NAGIRI IT MUST BE HARD FOR YOU
?!
SWUSH

I AM A PRIESTESS OF KAMUI-KOTAN I UNDER-STAND...
SHUT UP! WHAT DO YOU UNDER-STAND?!
BECAUSE I DIED WITH A HEART FULL OF ANGER, I CAUGHT THE DEVIL'S EYE — AND WAS DRAGGED INTO THE DARK KINGDOM.
IN MY BODY FLOWS THE COLD BLOOD OF DARKNESS. MY HEART NO LONGER KNOWS THE BEAT OF LIFE!
I AM A SOLDIER OF THE DARK KINGDOM— AND I SERVE LORD AMBROSIA!
WAM
I'M NOTHING BUT A LIVING CORPSE! YOUR WORLD HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM ME— FOREVER!

WH WHAT MUST I DO ?! HEAR THE DEVIL'S VOICE WITHIN ME..
HE ORDERS ME TO KILL.. TO BURN UP EVERY-THING...
AAAH
LET US GO BACK RETURN TO HAOHMARU..
VOOSH
!!

Ka-
TANG
CHNG
CHNG
ZAAH
AH!
KEH ! GULLIBLE GIRL!
GEN-AN ?
tmp
TAKKA SHAK
!

NAGIRI...
UMPH
TELL HAOHMARU.. TH-THERE IS NO WAY OUT FOR ME.
SHA
TELL HIM TO KILL ME!
YAAH!
FWOSH
GEN-AN.. WHY DID YOU SAVE ME ?

NOW WE'RE EVEN! I NO LONGER OWE YOU FOR SAVING MY CHILD.
FMP

BUT DON'T FORGET
. SOONER OR LATER, I WILL KILL SHOSETSU — KILL ALL OF YOU! KEH!

I, GEN AN SHIRANUI, WILL BE KING OF ALL EVIL!
WOOOOM

FSH VSH FSH VSH

THEIR BATTLE-SHIP IS LEAVING . KYOTO IS IN ASHES

. . THEY'RE HEADED FOR THE HIGH SEAS, VIA THE KATSURA RIVER AND OSAKA

HANZO AREN'T WE GONNA GO AFTER THAT SHIP!?
THE GOVERNMENT HAS LONG FORBIDDEN US TO CONSTRUCT BATTLESHIPS OVER 1000 GOKU—

—THERE'S NOT A SHIP IN THE COUNTRY THAT CAN EQUAL THAT ONE!
GRR

HMM

!?
I TAKE IT THAT OTHER COUNTRIES DO HAVE THEM, EVEN THOUGH OURS DOESN'T

RIGHT ?

?

A few days later, a boat secretly sailed out from Kii Peninsula.
FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, FOREIGN SHIPS HAVE FREQUENTLY APPEARED IN THE SEA OF JAPAN
TOOSH
TOOSH
ALL OF THEM ARE HUMONGOUS SHIPS WITH CANNONS— UNLIKE ANY FOUND IN OUR COUNTRY
I SEE SO WE'LL ADD HIJACKING TO OUR REPERTOIRE
KAWWW!!
FWAP FWAP
LOOK
IT'S HUGE. THIS ONE WILL DO
FWSH
THOK
OKAY
...
I—I JUST COULDN'T SPEAK UP ABOUT NAGIRI
SH
TUMP

...?
THAT'S ODD.. NO ONE'S AROUND
SKREEK
WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS HAVE YOU GOT ON OUR SHIP THE BASTILLE ?
!
DOOM
!
WAIT, HAOHMARU! BETTER NOT CAUSE A STIR JUST YET!

I WONT ASK WHY YOU GENTS VENTURED ONTO THE BASTILLE-
-BUT THERE IS ONE THING I DO WANT TO ASK YOU..
TATOON
ARE YOU A SAMURAI !?
YES. I AM A SAMURAI
IF YOU ARE A SAMURAI, ONE OF THE RENOWNED SWORDSMEN OF THE EAST, THEN HAVE A MATCH. WITH ME!
HE HE
THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE THE LIVES OF YOUR FRIENDS!

THIS GUY SPEAKS FLUENT JAPANESE HE MUST HAVE COME TO JAPAN WITH A PURPOSE !
HAOHMARU !
HE'S JUST LIKE ME. . SEARCHIN' FOR STRONGER GUYS THAN HIMSELF
KRANG
HE TOO IS WORTHY !
MY NAME IS HAOHMARU !
AHA
FWOOM
KATAG
WHA . . ? A WOMAN !?
I AM CHARLOTTE! REMEMBER THAT!
=SHA
-TOING
VOOM
HMPH !

TR. SLASH!!
SHAAA

SPLURSH
GWAH
TUNK
UNGH
TUP
MY FINAL BLOW— AIMED AT YOUR HEART! NICE DODGE.
HA. HA, HA . . YOU. . YOU'RE VERY STRONG . . . THAT'S GREAT
He's powerful . . . Is he merely humoring me?
FING
I'm in the superior position . . .
SHUP
. . .and yet I still feel OVERWHELMED by this guy . . .!
I CAN'T BE BEATEN BY SOMEONE WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD!
I'VE GOT FRIENDS TO SAVE
AND ENEMIES TO DEFEAT!
STANG
SKASKANG

TENG
TENG
TENG
TENG
URCK !
FRIENDS TO SAVE ?
ENEMIES TO DEFEAT . . . ?
KRANG
DO YOU THINK I DON'T HAVE THEM AS WELL, HAOHMARU!?
Eighteenth-century France

As the battle between citizens seeking liberty and the oppressive French parliament reached an appalling level. . .
. . .Marie Antoinette wished DEATH on the rebels, as if she was led by the DEVIL.
FRIENDS. . . I EMBARK ON A JOURNEY TO OBTAIN THE POWER TO CRUSH THE DEVIL!
I WILL RETURN
DESPAIR NOT IN THE CURSED DUNGEON OF THE BASTILLE!
. TO FREE OUR HOMELAND FROM THE DOMINATION OF THE DEVIL AMBROSIA!

OH

I UNDERSTAND NOW. SHE TOO HAS A PAST— LIKE US. . .

WHA !
NO, HAOHMARU! DON'T FIGHT HER!

IT'S A LITTLE TOO LATE TO SAY THAT .

!?

Hmm ?
. . .

WHOA!
HEY! YOU CAN'T JUST STOP! WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT HERE!
OH!

C-CAPTAIN. . . ! SOMETHING . . . OVER THERE!

Pitiful humans who rebel against my lord, the DEVIL AMBROSIA . . .

Now you shall receive the merciful gift of DARKNESS!

NAGIR!

ZA DOON

SLOOSH
ATTACK! SHOOT!
BLAM BLAM
IT'S A SEA SERPENT!
NO! I WON'T DIE HERE! DAMN YOU, AMBROSIA!
VEEEUUM
HAAA!!

WORST
POWER GRADATION!
FMP

!!

DIE, HAOHMARU!
NOO! NAGIRI!

Haohmaru . . . Can you kill this girl?
She died once, only to attain life once more by the mercy of Lord AMBROSIA!

AH
Are you going to kill this girl — TWICE !?

HAOHMARU, DON'T HESITATE!
I'M ALREADY DEAD! FREE ME FROM THIS HELL!
PLEASE KILL ME!

WHA
BOOM
RROOOWRR!

FWUMP
THANK YOU, HAOHMARU
THIS REMINDS ME OF WHEN MY FATHER
SHHHH. YOU CAN REST NOW NAGIRI
FOOM

NAGIRI
...
THE ENEMY I'M AFTER— IS YOUR ENEMY ALSO ,!?
HAOHMARU, JOIN FORCES WITH US AND OUR SHIP!
THE DEVIL AMBROSIA IS AN OPPONENT WHO MUST BE DEFEATED— EVEN IF IT COSTS US OUR LIVES!
VOOM
LET'S DO IT!

At last, the final battle against YUI SHOSETSU is about to begin. . .!
ATTACK

BATTLE SIX
REINCARNATION

A GREAT AMOUNT OF BLOOD HAS FLOWED INTO THE DARK KINGDOM...
KREEK
KREEK

LOOOM
...AND SOON, THE DEVIL AMBROSIA WILL OPEN THE GATES AND DESCEND TO US.

THEN, WITH THIS WRITTEN PLEDGE OF THE DAIMYO LORDS, THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE WILL COLLAPSE AND THE TURBULENT TIME WILL ARRIVE
...THE REIGN OF THE PEOPLE OF DARKNESS! I, YUI SHOSETSU, WILL BECOME THE SUPREME RULER OF "EARTH"!

SHHH
THE TIME IS APPROACHING, SHIRO..
YES, SIR.

SHA SH
CAPTAIN, THE ENEMY SHIP IS IN SIGHT!
JUST AS IN A SWORD FIGHT – THE FIRST BLOW DETERMINES THE BATTLE!
WE'RE ALMOST THERE! THE END DRAWS NEAR...
FIRE A VOLLEY TO CRUSH THE CANNONS ON THEIR PORT SIDE! WE'LL FORCE THEM INTO COMBAT!
DOOM
WIND, OCEAN, EARTH... SPIRITS OF NATURE... PLEASE LEND US YOUR POWERS...

NAGIRI... watch me from heaven above as I STRIKE DOWN SHOSETSU!

FIRE!
BA WHAM

BOOOSH
DA-DOOOSH

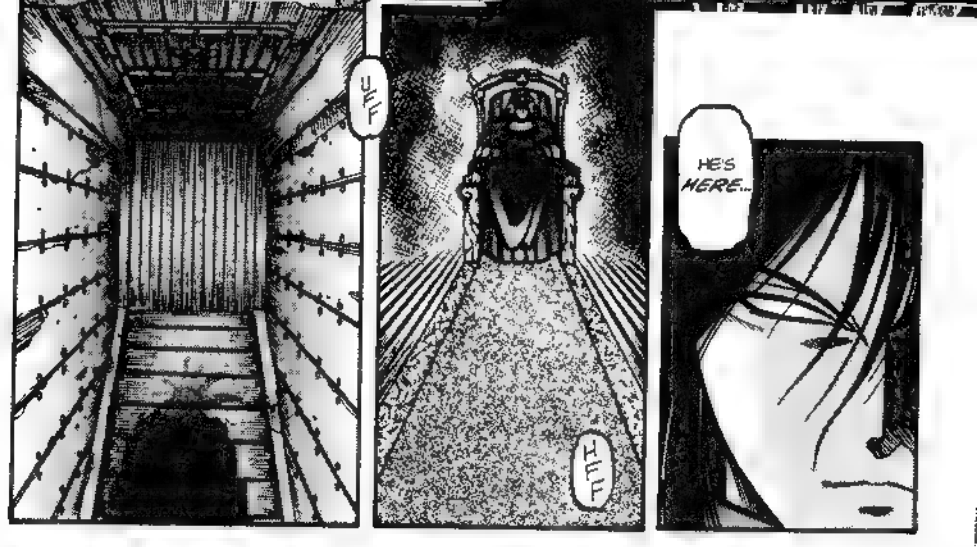
ATTACK !!
RROOWR!

YA WO O M
SPLASH MOUNT!

KONG
BONG!

AN NU MUTSUBE!

BLAM
ARROOO


HE'S HERE...
HEF
HEF

SKRAK
KRONK
AT LAST... WE'VE COME TO DETERMINE A WINNER, YUI SHOSETSU!
NHUUU

AH, HAOH-MARU.. IN A MATCH BETWEEN YOU AND I..
YOU CAN-NOT WIN!
SHASH
SHMSH
GAH..
AH
I WILL SQUEEZE EVERY DROP OF BLOOD FROM YOUR BODY..

...YOU VERMIN!
DO YOU HEAR ME...?!
YOU CALL US HUMANS "VERMIN," EH..?
WELL, CAN VERMIN DO THIS!?
SHADO
KRRRP
RRRRP

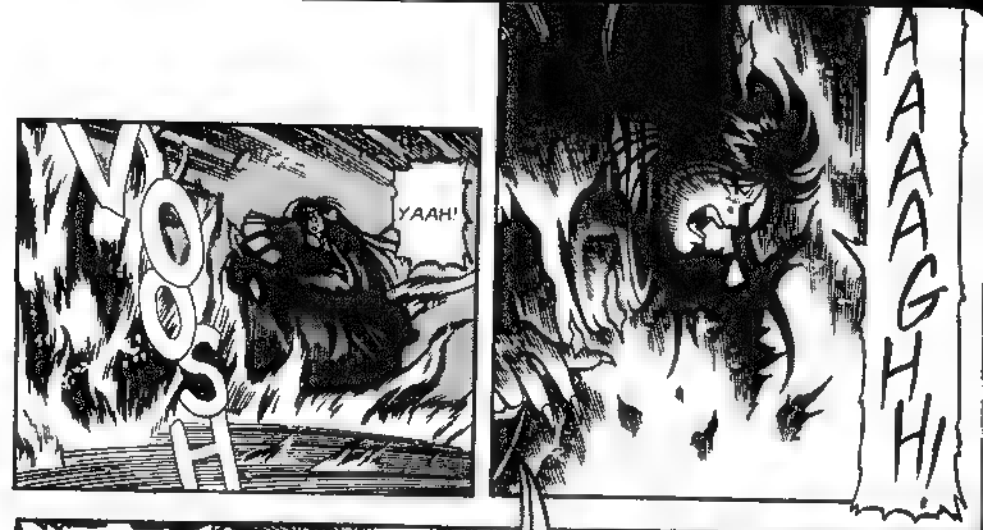
BUT..!
HOW.. !?
NO MERE HUMAN HAS THAT MUCH POWER...
...
KOOWRR!!
!!
SHA A
YOU, WHO ONLY TOY WITH HUMAN LIVES, COULD NEVER UNDER-STAND..
!
WEAK OF MUSCLE, BUT NOT OF HEART—
—WE ARE WITHOUT EQUAL IN GOD'S KINGDOM!
WE FIGHT EVIL, WHILE THINGS LIKE YOU WALLOW IN IT!

JGYAAAH!
NO.. NO..! THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!

I AM THE PROMISED SEED OF THE DARK LORD, BAPTIZED BY LORD AMBROSIA!
WU M
HOW COULD THE SWORD OF A MERE HUMAN CUT ME?
WU M
JFF
UNGH
HFF

SHOSETSU ..YOUR MISSION IS COMPLETE
SH-SHIRO ?
ZASHASHASH
THE LAST SEAL HAS BEEN BROKEN BY THE BLACK BLOOD OF YOUR KIND, FRESH FROM THE NETHER-WORLD
THE PROMISED SEED OF LORD AMBROSIA WAS NEVER YOU, FOOLISH ONE.

JUST AS JESUS NEEDED JOHN THE BAPTIST TO BEAR *WITNESS* TO THE WORLD—
—*YOUR* ONLY PURPOSE WAS TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR *ME!*
SHIRO! WH-WHO *ARE* YOU!
I AM SHIRO TOKISADA AMAKUSA !

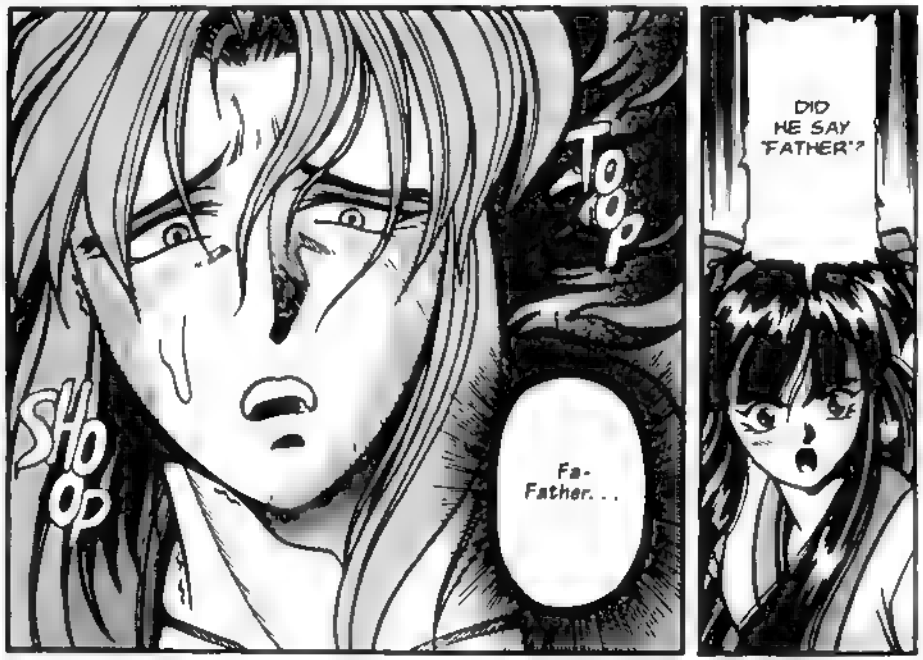

YAAH!
AAAGHH!

RETURN TO THE DARK CHAOS OF NON-EXISTENCE!

...!
SHOSETSU, YOU HAVE POURED ME *COUNTLESS DROPS* OF BLOOD AND TEARS— THE MOST DELICIOUS ELIXIRS OF ALL...

TEEH
TEEH
WELL...
YOU SAY YOU ARE, AMAKUSA...?

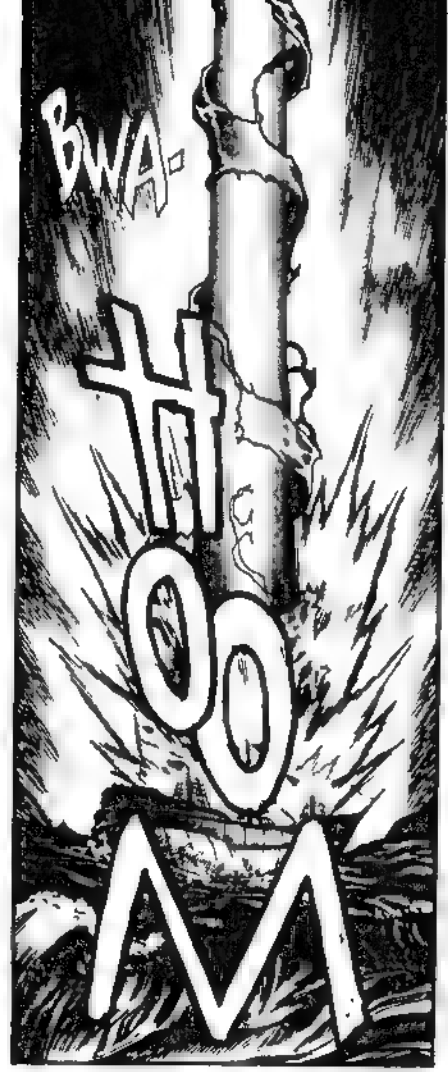
SHI SHINZO!
ANGH!
AAH!
OOMF


SHOOP
TOOP
Fa-Father...
DID HE SAY "FATHER"?

I STILL HAVENT TAKEN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THIS BODY..?
THE SEAL IS NOT YET COMPLETELY BROKEN?
ERR

HA, HA, HA, HA.. YES, THIS BODY CERTAINLY *IS* YOUR SON'S, HATTORI HANZO *MINE*, SINCE HIS DEATH TWO YEARS AGO!
A CRAZY THING TO TRY! CROSSING AN AVALANCHE IS NOT A JOURNEY FOR A BOY!
FATHER.. I'M SORRY..
SHINZO!
I WANTED TO *SURPASS* YOU, FATHER...
I WANTED YOUR APPROVAL.. WANTED TO BECOME STRONG.. SO..
SHINZO!
AS PROPHESIED, FOR THE SEED OF DARKNESS TO ENTER THE WORLD, HE REQUIRES THE FLESH OF A LIVING BEING..
LOCATION OF THE STARS AT THE TIME OF BIRTH, SPIRITUAL NATURE, PHYSICAL STRENGTH-
-YOUR SON'S *CORPSE* WAS THE IDEAL BODY!
AH!
Father...
SSUUP
Please kill me...
...It is the only mercy I beg for!

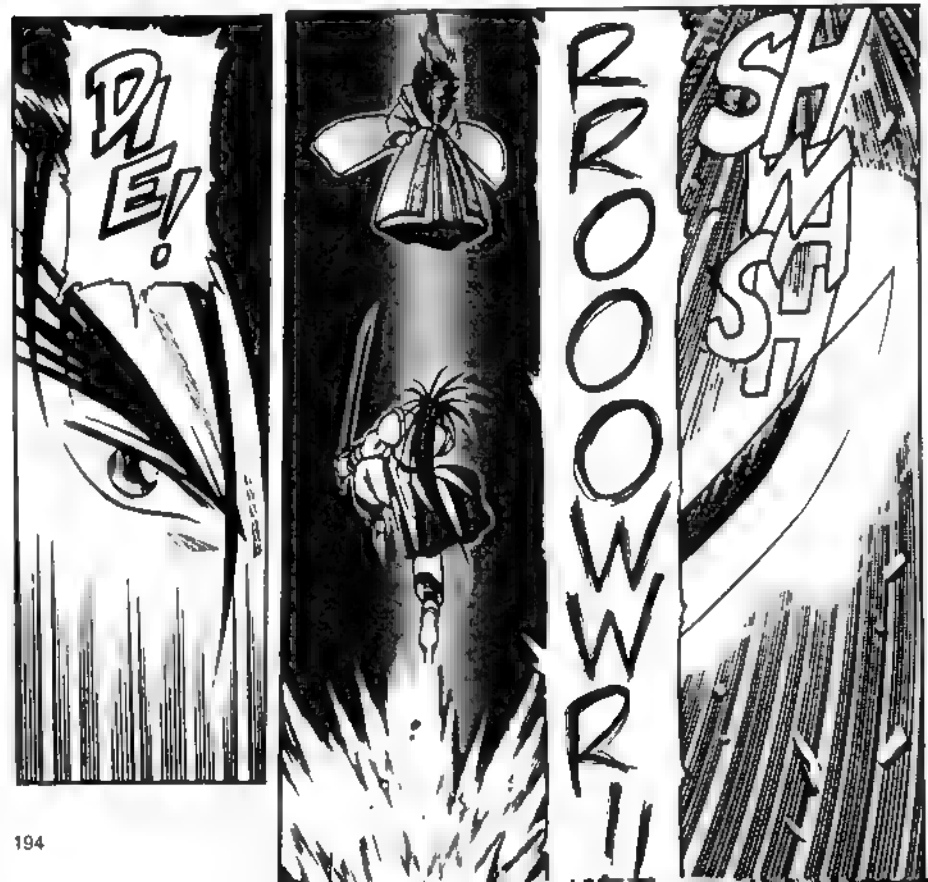
THE SOUL OF THE NINJA IS THE BLADE AND THE HEART!
FLIPP
YOU ARE MY HEART, SHINZO! BUT MY BLADE WILL FREE YOU!
FOOL!
FA-SH


BWA-
HOOM

HA, HA, HA, HA! DO YOU NOT KNOW YOUR LIMITS? YOU VERMIN CANNOT TOUCH EVEN THE HEM OF MY CLOTHES!
FA-WOOMSH

TLOK

..AMA-
KUSA..
HMM?
YOU
ARE
GONNA
...


DIE!
SHSHSH
ROOOWR!!

SKURRP
Got him!
!?
HA HA HA
TSH TSH TSH
SHA
INTERESTING! A MERE HUMAN EXERTING SUCH POWER!
WHAT...!?
VOOM
HERE, HAOH MARU, IS YOUR REWARD!

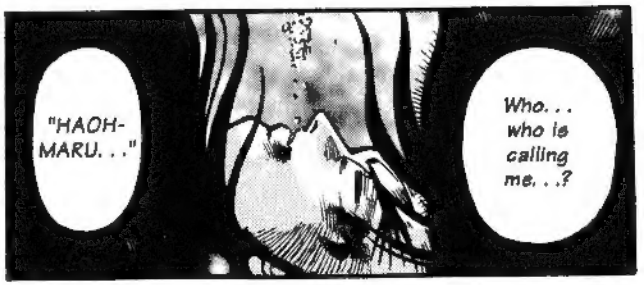
BA
OOM
SH
THE REWARD OF DEATH !

SPA
SPA
SH
HA, HA, HA, HA.
ZZZ
ZOT
FROM THIS MOMENT ON, I SHALL GATHER THE POWER TO BURY YOUR PUNY PLANET IN ASH!
SHWOO

WHEN THAT POWER IS MINE— WHEN I APPEAR BEFORE YOU ONCE MORE—
—I SHALL DEDICATE THIS EARTH TO THE SUPREME RULER OF DARKNESS!
!!
FARE-WELL!
BAWOOSH
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA!

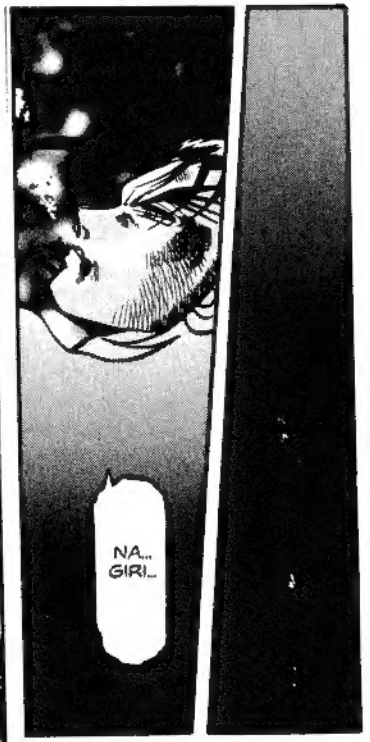
THIS SHIP'S NOT GONNA LAST MUCH LONGER! BOARD THE BASTILLE!
HURRY! OR YOU'LL GO DOWN WITH THE SHIP!
GOM
HAOHMARU!!
SHAA

"HAOH-MARU. . ."


"HAOH-MARU. . ."
Who. . . who is calling me. . .?

I—I must not die yet. . . Aren't there people ' waiting for me. . .?

I must live! For I am. . . HAOHMARU!

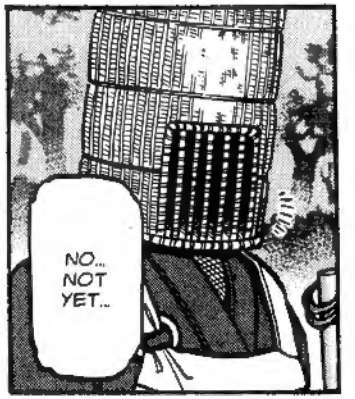

NA... GIRI...

One month later. . .

NO... EVERY-THING IS DYING...

FORESTS... FLOWERS... BIRDS... BEASTS... AND PEOPLE...
THE WIND— FULL OF THE DARK SPIRIT— BLOWS FROM THE SOUTH-EAST...

OUR BATTLE HAS ENDED— IN PITIFUL DEFEAT...

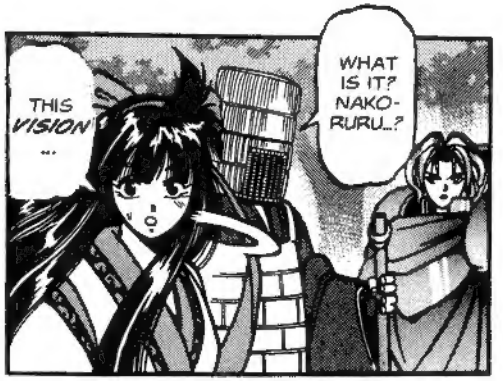

NO... NOT YET..

I CAN SEE A... A NEW BEGINNING — A BATTLE ON AN EVEN LARGER SCALE! WE ARE JOINED BY MORE SAMURAI SPIRITS..

..BUT..

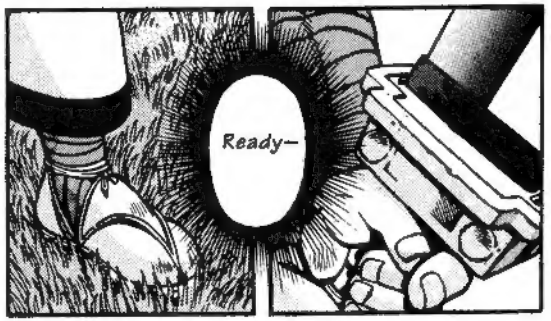
..BUT HAOH-MARU IS NOT THERE...

OH!


THIS VISION ...
WHAT IS IT? NAKO-RURU..?

I FEEL IT!
ZASH
NAKO-RURU!

I CAN FEEL IT!


Ready—

UFF
ROUND ONE!
HFF

FIGHT!
TO BE CONTINUED ON YOUR NEO·GEO!